GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5929
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
PULSES PRODUCTION
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of pulses during 2001 as compared to 1981;

(b) whether there has been a fall in the per capita availability of pulses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the production of pulses has been declining/stagnating over the last few years;

(e) if so, whether this has adversely affected the prices of pulses in the open market; and

(f) if so, the details of steps taken to make available pulses at reasonable prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The per capita availability of pulses during 2001 is 10.2 kg./per annum as compared to 13.7 kg./per annum in 1981. The per capita availability of pulses remained fluctuating since 1981.

The availability of pulses depends upon their production which fluctuates from year to year depending upon the behaviour of monsoon as these are cultivated on marginal and sub-marginal lands and under rainfed conditions.

(d): The production of pulses remained fluctuating over the last few years depending upon the behaviour of the monsoon. The production of pulses during the last five years is given in the following table:

(Million tonnes)

Year	Production
1997-98	12.97
1998-99	14.91
1999-2000	13.41
2000-01	10.67
2001-02 (estimated)	13.80

(e) & (f): The increase in prices of pulses depends on a number of factors including the domestic production. The Govt. of India is making all efforts to meet the demand of Pulses in the country by increasing the production of pulses. For increasing the production of pulses a Centrally sponsored scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)is under implementation in 30 States/U.Ts. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the states for production and distribution of seed, seed minikit, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

The import of pulses is under Open General Licence (OGL)and takes place in case of short supply of pulses in the market. Moreover the consumption of pulses is inter- changeable with vegetables.